

Our operational principles

Practicing sustainability: we strive to enact sustainability principles and practices in our own activities.

- **“Walking the talk”:** we work to use sustainable practices in our own operations and actively strive to embody our core values.
- **Community:** we embrace and enact the UC Davis Principles of Community in our daily work.
- **Respect for all:** we affirm the inherent dignity in all people and endeavor to relate to all with respect, fairness and justice.

Legitimacy: we set our priorities and design our programs in response to concerns and aspirations of stakeholders representing the diversity of California

- **Spanning boundaries:** we serve the entire state, and all segments of agriculture and the food system.
- **Science in the public interest:** we are committed to transparency in governance and priority setting; to open access to results and information; and to accountability to stakeholders.
- **Historical awareness:** we recognize the University's historic, current, and potential future roles in shaping agricultural and food systems and their effects on environment and society. We strive to make informed and responsible decisions regarding research, teaching and outreach based on this knowledge.
- **Seeking consensus, while respecting differences:** our activities employ a common set of ground rules, including respect for different viewpoints.

Usefulness: responsiveness to stakeholders’ needs – the broad interests of society as well as needs of specific groups – is key to the relevance of our initiatives and provides the necessary focus on real issues and opportunities.

- **Communication for impact:** we ensure that input from stakeholders consistently is sought and used effectively and that our products are translated to reach key audiences in forms they can use.
- **Integration of knowledge:** we actively seek and recognize the value of knowledge embodied in experience on farms and ranches, in communities, in industry, and in policy arenas.
- **Commitment to experiential learning:** we recognize the value of learning-by-doing and actively seek to integrate practical opportunities in our educational programs, training, and outreach activities.
- **Creating and sustaining a learning organization:** feedback, monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment will be embedded in overall design of our activities.

Credibility: we hold ourselves to the highest standards of professional integrity and scientific rigor.

- **Forward-looking agenda:** we will create and sustain mechanisms to identify and assess emerging opportunities and threats, based on scientific analyses and stakeholder input and informed by global trends.
 - **Broad scope, with multidisciplinary balance:** we integrate economic, environmental, and social dimensions of sustainability.
 - **Scientific integration and synthesis:** our activities span big, inter-linked issues and multiple scales – ranging from molecular to global; past, present, future.
 - **Open inquiry:** we promote critical analysis to challenge ‘conventional wisdom’ and to expand our understanding of technical, institutional, and policy options using the best natural and social science methods available.
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